

Message Text

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21
ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00

NSAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 /031 W
----- 097074

R 301935Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3024
INFO USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 2660

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, HA, US
SUBJECT: FORMER HAITIAN PERMREP REQUESTS U.S. RESIDENCY

REF: (A) USUN 3958, (B) PORT AU PRINCE 2603

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH FACTS RELATED BY RAOUL SICLAIT CONCERNING FAMILY'S FALL FROM GRACE ARE SOMEWHAT SELF-SERVING, IT IS NEVERTHELESS TRUE THAT THOSE MENTIONED REF (A) HAVE IN EFFECT BEEN EXILED FROM HAITI. WE THINK QUESTION OF VISAING RAOUL SICLAIT, ANTOINE MOSCOVA AND JERARD GAUCHIER LESS COMPLEX THAN THAT OF VISAING HENRI SICLAIT, BUT IN ANY EVENT RECOMMEND PROCEEDING SLOWLY ON ENTIRE MATTER IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE POLITICAL CONNOTATION. END SUMMARY.

2. DISMISSAL OF HENRI SICLAIT AND ASSOCIATES WAS THE MOST DRAMATIC STEP TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT IN RECENT YEARS. WHATEVER FULLY STORY MAY BE, HENRI SICLAIT AND FAMILY ENRICHED THEMSELVES IN A TRULY GROSS MANNER OVER MANY YEARS AND THEIR DISMISSAL HAS BEEN TOUTED BY GOVERNMENT AS MAJOR STEP (A) AGAINST CORRUPTION AND (B) TOWARDS GREATER FISCALIZATION OF MAJOR SOURCE OF REVENUE -- THE REGIE DU TABAC. TOO PRECIPITATE AN ACTION BY USG IN ACCOMMODATING OUSTED "SCOUNDRELS" MIGHT INTRIGUE U.S. PRESS. IT MIGHT ALSO BE CONSTRUED BY GOH AS INDELICATE IF NOT UNFRIENDLY ACT. ALTHOUGH ALLEGATION BY HAITI OBSERVATEUR THAT SICLAIT WAS DISMISSED BECAUSE OF CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH AMBASSADOR
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MAY BE UNDERSTOOD HERE AS IMAGINATIVE EXILE WRITING, EARLY

ACCOMMODATION COULD BE TAKEN BY ALL OBSERVERS AS CONFIRMATION NOT ONLY OF AN UNTRUTH BUT OF AN UNDESIRABLE SKEWING IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOH.

3. WITH THAT WORD OF CAUTION, WE THINK AN OPERABLE DISTINCTION CAN BE MADE BETWEEN RAOUL SICLAIT, MOSCOVA, AND GAUCHIER ON ONE SIDE AND HENRI SICLAIT ON THE OTHER. THE FORMER ARE MINOR FIGURES, OF WHOM RAOUL SICLAIT IS EVIDENTLY REGARDED REASONABLY FAVORABLY BY USUN. THEY UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE PLENTY OF MONEY AND WOULD HAVE NO TROUBLE SUPPORTING THEMSELVES. ONLY TECHNICALITY TO CONSIDER WOULD BE FACT THAT GOH HAS INVALIDATED ALL SICLAIT PASSPORTS (REF B) AND HAS ASKED ALL GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED IN HAITI TO REFUSE VISAS TO THE HOLDERS OF THOSE PASSPORTS.

4. HENRI SICLAIT APPARENTLY INTENDS TO TAKE UP RESIDENCE IN FRANCE. HE IS VERY WEALTHY BUT HE IS ALSO NOW INFAMOUS. TO AVOID STIMULATING TALES OF COLLUSION AND CAMARADERIE WITH HENRI SICLAIT AND OTHER EXILES, WE WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND DEFERRING ACTION ON VISA REQUEST OF HENRI SICLAIT FOR SIX MONTHS OR SO.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL ASYLUM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PORTA02660
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760369-1291
From: PORT AU PRINCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976092/aaaaablx.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION VO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 USUN NEW YORK 3958, 76 PORT AU PRINCE 2603
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 SEP 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <21 MAY 2004 by woolflhd, INA>; RELEASED <15 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FORMER HAITIAN PERMREP REQUESTS U.S. RESIDENCY
TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, HA, US, (SICLAIT, RAOUL), (MOSCAVA, ANTOINE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006